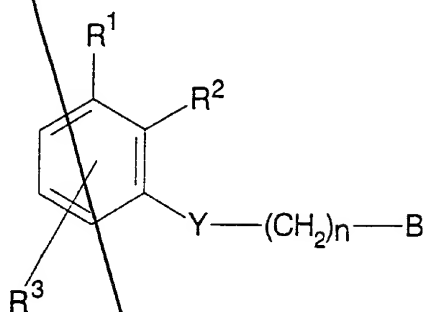


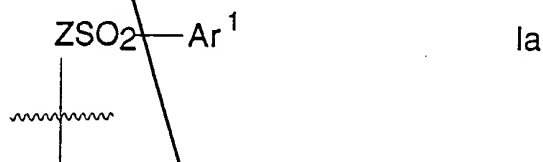
Claims

1. A compound of formula I,



wherein

one of R^1 and R^2 represents a structural fragment of formula Ia



and the other represents R^4 ;

Z represents O or $N(R^5)$;

R^3 represents one or more optional substituents selected from OH, halo, cyano, nitro, $C(O)OR^6$, C_{1-6} alkoxy or C_{1-6} alkyl (which two latter groups are optionally substituted and/or terminated by one or more halo or hydroxy group) or $N(R^7)R^8$;

R^4 represents H, OH, halo, cyano, nitro, $C(O)OR^6$, C_{1-6} alkoxy or C_{1-6} alkyl (which two latter groups are optionally substituted and/or terminated by one or more halo or hydroxy group) or $N(R^7)R^8$;

Ar^1 represents phenyl, C_{1-3} alkylphenyl, C_{1-3} alkylidiphenyl, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, C_{1-3} -alkyl- C_{3-7} -cycloalkyl, C_{1-3} -alkyl-di- C_{3-7} -cycloalkyl, naphthyl, C_{1-3} alkyl naphthyl, thienyl, imidazolyl or isoxazolyl, all of which may be substituted by one or more substituent selected from OH, halo, cyano, nitro, $C(O)OR^6$, C_{1-6} alkoxy or C_{1-6} alkyl (which two latter groups are optionally

substituted and/or terminated by one or more halo or hydroxy group) or $N(R^7)R^8$;

R^5 represents H, C_{1-6} alkyl, phenyl or C_{1-3} alkylphenyl (which three latter groups are optionally substituted and/or terminated by one or more substituent selected from OH, halo, cyano, nitro, $C(O)OR^9$, $C(O)N(R^{10})R^{11}$, $P(O)(R^{12})R^{13}$, $P(O)(OR^{14})OR^{15}$, $S(O)_2(R^{16})R^{17}$, $S(O)_2N(R^{18})R^{19}$, C_{1-6} alkoxy or C_{1-6} alkyl (which two latter groups are optionally substituted and/or terminated by one or more halo or hydroxy group) or $N(R^{20})R^{21}$);

Y represents O, S, $S(O)$, $S(O)_2$ or $N(R^{22})$;

R^{10} and R^{11} independently represent H, OR^{23} , $C(O)R^{24}$, $OC(O)R^{25}$, $C(O)OR^{26}$, C_{1-4} alkyl, (which latter group is optionally substituted and/or terminated by one or more substituent selected from C_{1-4} alkyl, OR^{27} , $N(R^{28})R^{29}$, $C(O)OR^{30}$, $C(O)N(R^{31})R^{32}$, $P(O)(R^{33})R^{34}$, $P(O)(OR^{35})OR^{36}$ and $S(O)_2N(R^{37})R^{38}$), $-(CH_2CH_2O)_pR^{39}$ or, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, form a C_{4-7} nitrogen-containing, aromatic or non-aromatic, ring which ring may contain a further heteroatom or group (as appropriate) selected from O, S and $N(R^{40})$ and may further be substituted by one or more substituent selected from $C(O)R^{41}$, $C(O)OR^{42}$ or $C(O)N(R^{43})R^{44}$;

R^{28} , R^{29} , R^{30} , R^{31} , R^{32} and R^{40} independently represent H or C_{1-6} alkyl, which latter group is optionally substituted and/or terminated by one or more substituent selected from $C(O)R^{45}$, $C(O)OR^{46}$ or $C(O)N(R^{47})R^{48}$;

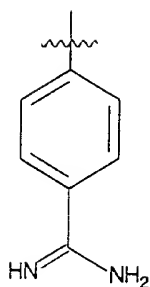
at each occurrence, R^6 , R^7 and R^8 independently represent H or C_{1-4} alkyl; R^9 , R^{12} , R^{13} , R^{14} , R^{15} , R^{16} , R^{17} , R^{18} , R^{19} , R^{20} , R^{21} , R^{22} , R^{23} , R^{24} , R^{25} , R^{26} , R^{27} , R^{33} , R^{34} , R^{35} , R^{36} , R^{37} , R^{38} , R^{39} , R^{41} , R^{42} , R^{43} , R^{44} , R^{45} , R^{46} , R^{47} and R^{48} independently represent H or C_{1-4} alkyl;

n represents 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

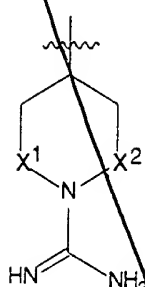
p represents 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6; and

B represents a structural fragment of formula Ib, Ic, Id or Ie

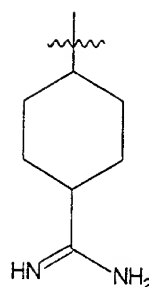
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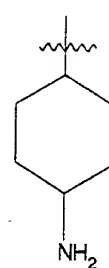
Ib



Ic



Id



Ie

wherein

X^1 and X^2 independently represent a single bond or CH_2 ;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. A compound of formula I, as defined in Claim 1, wherein, when B represents a structural fragment of formula Ib, Id, Ie or Ic in which latter fragment X^1 and X^2 both represent CH_2 , then n represents 2.

3. A compound of formula I, as defined in one Claim 1, wherein n represents 2.

4. A compound of formula I, as defined in any one of the preceding claims, wherein R^2 represents a structural fragment of formula Ia and R^1 represents R^4 .

5. A compound of formula I, as defined in any one of the preceding claims, wherein Z represents O or $N(R^5)$, in which latter case R^5 represents C_{1-6} alkyl terminated by $C(O)N(R^{10})R^{11}$.

6. A compound of formula I, as defined in any one of the preceding claims, wherein R^3 is not present, or represents methyl, chloro or methoxy.

A3c*

7. A compound of formula I, as defined in any one of the preceding claims, wherein Ar¹ represents substituted phenyl.

8. A compound of formula I, as defined in any one of the preceding claims wherein Y represents O.

9. A compound of formula I, as defined in any one of the preceding claims wherein B represents a structural fragment of formula Ib.

10. A compound as claimed in Claim 1 which is:

N-{3-[2-(4-aminoiminomethylphenyl)ethoxy]phenyl} benzenesulfonamide;
benzenesulfonic acid-{3-[2-(4-aminoiminomethylphenyl)ethoxy]-5-methyl}phenyl ester;

N-{3-[2-(4-aminoiminomethylphenyl)ethoxy]phenyl}-2-chlorobenzenesulfonamide;

N-{3-[2-(4-aminoiminomethylphenyl)ethoxy]phenyl}-2-cyanobenzene-sulfonamide;

N-{3-[2-(4-aminoiminomethylphenyl)ethoxy]phenyl}-2-fluorobenzene-sulfonamide;

N-{3-[2-(4-aminoiminomethylphenyl)ethoxy]phenyl}-2-(trifluoromethoxy)-benzenesulfonamide;

N-{3-[2-(4-aminoiminomethylphenyl)ethoxy]phenyl}-4-fluorobenzene-sulfonamide;

N-{3-[2-(4-aminoiminomethylphenyl)ethoxy]phenyl}-2,5-dimethylbenzene-sulfonamide;

N-{3-[2-(4-aminoiminomethylphenyl)ethoxy]phenyl}-5-chlorothiophene-2-sulfonamide;

N-{3-[2-(4-aminoiminomethylphenyl)ethoxy]phenyl}-1-methylimidazole-3-sulfonamide;

N-{3-[2-(4-aminoiminomethylphenyl)ethoxy]phenyl}-3,5-dimethylisoxazole-

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30 3-{3-[2-(4-aminoiminomethylphenyl)ethoxy]-N-(2-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl-5-

- methylphenylamino} butanamide;
- N-(2-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl-3-{3-[2-(4-aminoiminomethylphenyl)ethoxy]-5-methylphenylamino} butanoic acid;
- N-(2-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl-4-{3-[2-(4-aminoiminomethylphenyl)ethoxy]-5-methylphenylamino} pentanoic acid, ethyl ester;
- 4-{3-[2-(4-aminoiminomethylphenyl)ethoxy]-N-(2-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl-5-methylphenylamino} pentanamide;
- N-(2-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl-4-{3-[2-(4-aminoiminomethylphenyl)ethoxy]-5-methylphenylamino} pentanoic acid;
- 10 N-(2-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl-5-{3-[2-(4-aminoiminomethylphenyl)ethoxy]-5-methylphenylamino} hexanoic acid, ethyl ester;
- 5-{3-[2-(4-aminoiminomethylphenyl)ethoxy]-N-(2-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl-5-methylphenylamino} pentanamide;
- N-(2-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl-5-{3-[2-(4-aminoiminomethylphenyl)ethoxy]-5-methylphenylamino} hexanoic acid;
- 15 N-phenylsulfonyl-3-[2-(4-aminoiminomethylphenyl)ethoxy]phenylaminoacetic acid, ethyl ester;
- N-phenylsulfonyl-3-[2-(4-aminoiminomethylphenyl)ethoxy]phenylaminoacetic acid;
- 20 N-{3-[2-(4-aminoiminomethylphenyl)ethoxy]phenyl}-N-(2-hydroxyethyl)-benzenesulfonamide;
- N-{3-[2-(4-aminoiminomethylphenyl)ethoxy]phenyl}-N-(dimethyloxophosphinylmethyl)-benzenesulfonamide;
- 2-chlorobenzenesulfonic acid, 3-[2-(4-aminoiminomethylphenyl)ethoxy]-5-methylphenyl ester;
- 25 benzenesulfonic acid, 3-[2-(4-aminoiminomethylphenyl)ethoxy]phenyl ester;
- 2-chloro-4-fluorobenzenesulfonic acid, 3-[2-(4-aminoiminomethylphenyl)ethoxy]-5-chlorophenyl ester;
- 2-chlorobenzenesulfonic acid, 3-[2-(4-aminoiminomethylphenyl)ethoxy]-5-methoxyphenyl ester;
- 30

- 2-chlorobenzenesulfonic acid, 3-[2-(4-aminoiminomethylphenyl)ethoxy]-5-ethylphenyl ester;
- N-{2-[2-(4-aminoiminomethylphenyl)ethylthio]phenyl} benzenesulfonamide;
- N-{2-[2-(4-aminoiminomethylphenyl)ethylthio]phenyl}-2,4,5-trichloro-
- 5 benzenesulfonamide;
- N-{2-[2-(4-aminoiminomethylphenyl)ethylthio]phenyl}-2-chloro-5-methoxybenzenesulfonamide;
- N-{2-[2-(4-aminoiminomethylphenyl)ethylthio]phenyl}-2,5-dibromobenzenesulfonamide;
- 10 N-{2-[2-(4-aminoiminomethylphenyl)ethylthio]phenyl}-2,5-dichlorobenzenesulfonamide;
- N-{2-[2-(4-aminoiminomethylphenyl)-ethylthio]-phenyl}-2-methoxy-5-methylbenzenesulfonamide;
- N-{2-[2-(4-aminoiminomethylphenyl)ethylthio]phenyl}-2,3,5,6-
- 15 tetramethylbenzenesulfonamide;
- N-{2-[2-(4-aminoiminomethylphenyl)ethylthio]phenyl}-3,4-dimethoxybenzenesulfonamide;
- N-{2-[2-(4-aminoiminomethylphenyl)ethylthio]phenyl}-3-bromobenzenesulfonamide;
- 20 N-{2-[2-(4-aminoiminomethylphenyl)ethylthio]phenyl}-3,4-dibromobenzenesulfonamide;
- N-{2-[2-(4-aminoiminomethylphenyl)ethylthio]phenyl}-2-chloro-4-fluorobenzenesulfonamide; or
- N-{2-[2-(4-aminoiminomethylphenyl)ethylthio]phenyl}-5-bromo-2-
- 25 methoxybenzenesulfonamide.

11. A compound of formula I, as defined in Claim 1, provided that R¹ represents a structural fragment of formula Ia and R² represents R⁴.

30 12. A compound of formula I, as defined in Claim 1, provided that Ar¹

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2.

30 22. A compound of formula I, as defined in Claim 1, provided that B

represents a structural fragment of formula Ie.

23. A pharmaceutical formulation including a compound as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 22, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

24. A compound as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 22, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for use as a pharmaceutical.

25. A compound as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 22, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for use in the treatment of a condition where inhibition of thrombin is required.

26. A compound as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 22, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for use in the treatment of thrombosis.

27. A compound of formula I as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 22, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for use as an anticoagulant.

20

28. The use of a compound I as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 22, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof as active ingredient in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a condition where inhibition of thrombin is required.

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29. The use as claimed in Claim 28, wherein the condition is thrombosis.

30. The use of a compound defined in any one of Claims 1 to 22, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as active ingredient in the manufacture of an anticoagulant.

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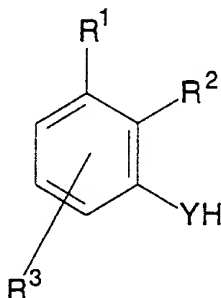
31. A method of treatment of a condition where inhibition of thrombin is required which method comprises administration of a therapeutically effective amount of a compound as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 22, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to a person suffering from, or susceptible to, such a condition.

32. A method as claimed in Claim 31, wherein the condition is thrombosis.

33. A method as claimed in Claim 31, wherein the condition is hypercoagulability in blood and tissues.

34. A process for the preparation of compounds of formula I which comprises:

(a) reaction of a compound of formula II,



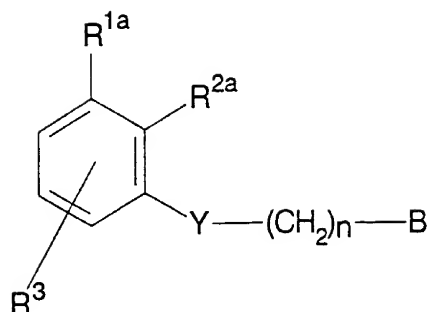
II

wherein R¹, R², R³ and Y are as defined in Claim 1 with a compound of formula III,



wherein L¹ represents a suitable leaving group and n and B are as defined in Claim 1;

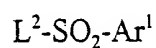
(b) reaction of a compound of formula IV,



IV

wherein one of R^{1a} and R^{2a} represents ZH and the other represents R^4 , and Z, R^3 , R^4 , Y, n and B are as defined in Claim 1 with a compound of formula

10 V,

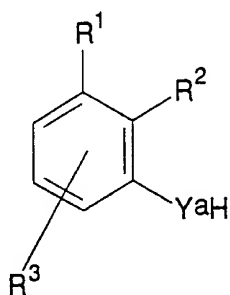


V

wherein L^2 is a suitable leaving group and Ar^1 is as defined in Claim 1;

(c) for compounds of formula I in which Y represents O or S, reaction of a compound of formula VI,

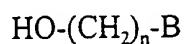
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VI

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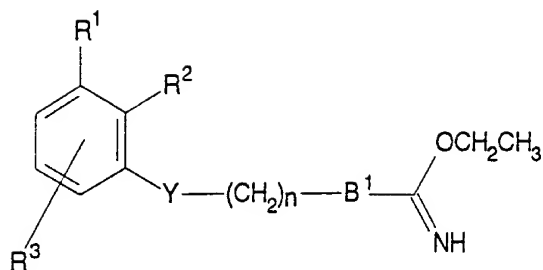
wherein Y^a represents O or S and R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are as defined in Claim 1 with a compound of formula VII,



VII

25 wherein n and B are as defined in Claim 1;

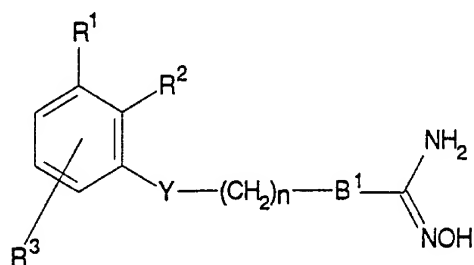
(d) for compounds of formula I wherein B represents a structural fragment of formula Ib or Id, reaction of a compound of formula VIII,



VIII

wherein B^1 represents 1,4-phenylene or 1,4-cyclohexylene and R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , Y and n are as defined in Claim 1 with ammonia gas;

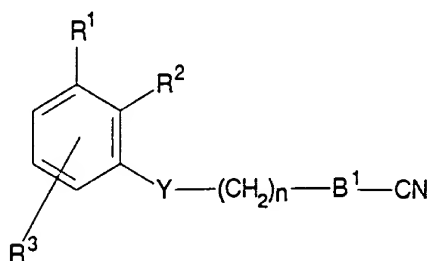
(e) for compounds of formula I wherein B represents a structural fragment of formula Ib or Id, reduction of a compound of formula IX,



IX

wherein R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , Y and n are as defined in Claim 1 and B^1 is as defined above;

(f) for compounds of formula I wherein B represents a structural fragment of formula Ib or Id, reaction of a compound of formula X,

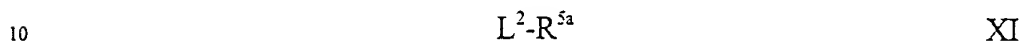


X

wherein R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , Y and n are as defined in Claim 1 and B^1 is as defined above;

(g) for compounds of formula I wherein Y represents $S(O)$ or $S(O)_2$, oxidation of a corresponding compound of formula I wherein Y represents
 5 S;

(h) for compounds of formula I wherein Z represents $N(R^5)$ and R^5 represents optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkyl, phenyl or C_{1-3} alkylphenyl, reaction of a corresponding compound of formula I wherein Z represents NH with a compound of formula XI,



wherein R^{5a} represents optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkyl, phenyl or C_{1-3} alkylphenyl and L^2 is as defined above;

(i) for compounds of formula I wherein Z represents $N(R^5)$ and R^5 represents C_{1-6} alkyl, phenyl or C_{1-3} alkylphenyl, all of which are substituted and/or
 15 terminated by $C(O)N(R^{10})R^{11}$, reaction of a corresponding compound of formula I wherein R^5 represents C_{1-6} alkyl, phenyl or C_{1-3} alkylphenyl, all of which are substituted and/or terminated, by $C(O)OR^9$, and R^9 is as defined in Claim 1, with a compound of formula XII,



20 wherein R^{10} and R^{11} are as defined in Claim 1;

(j) for compounds of formula I wherein Z represents $N(R^5)$ and R^5 represents C_{1-6} alkyl, phenyl or C_{1-3} alkylphenyl, all of which are substituted and/or terminated by $C(O)OH$, hydrolysis of a corresponding compound of formula I wherein R^5 represents C_{1-6} alkyl, phenyl or C_{1-3} alkylphenyl, all of which
 25 are substituted and/or terminated by $C(O)OR^9$ and R^9 represents C_{1-4} alkyl;
 or

(k) for compounds of formula I wherein Z represents $N(R^5)$ and R^5 represents $(CH_2)_2C(O)OR^9$ and R^9 is as defined in Claim 1, reaction of a corresponding compound of formula I wherein R^5 represents H with a
 30 compound of formula XIII,



wherein R^9 is as defined in Claim 1.